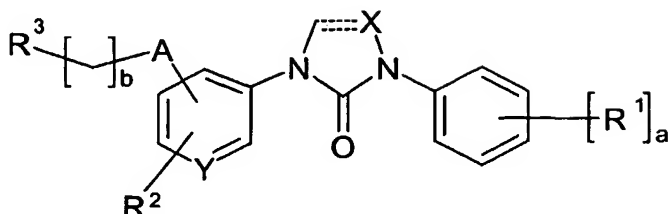


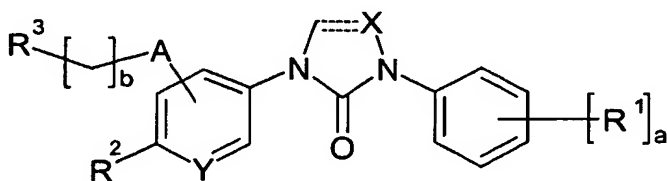
Claims

1. A compound of formula (I):

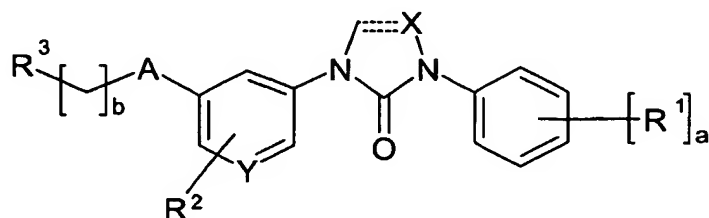


(I)

- 5 wherein:  
 a is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;  
 b is 1, 2 or 3;  
 Y is nitrogen or carbon;  
 A is oxygen, nitrogen, -CONH-, -NHCO- or together with R<sup>2</sup> form a benzoxazolone group;  
 10 R<sup>1</sup> is halogen, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkoxy, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylthio, hydroxy, amino, mono- or di-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylamino, nitro, CN, CF<sub>3</sub>, OCF<sub>3</sub>, aryl, arylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, arylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy or arylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkylthio;  
 R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen, halogen, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkoxy, haloC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl or haloC<sub>1-6</sub>alkoxy;  
 R<sup>3</sup> is:  
 15 (i) -NR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup> where R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> are independently hydrogen, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl or arylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; or  
 (ii) an optionally substituted N-linked heterocycle; or  
 (iii) an optionally substituted C-linked heterocycle;  
 20 ----- is a single bond or a double bond;  
 X is CH<sub>2</sub> or C=O (when ----- is a single bond) or X is CH (when ----- is a double bond).  
 2. A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein a is 1 or 2.  
 3. A compound as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is halogen.  
 25 4. A compound as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is at the 3 position or the 4 position.  
 5. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, wherein X is CH<sub>2</sub> and ----- represents a single bond or X is CH and ----- represents a double bond.  
 6. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6, wherein Y is carbon.  
 30 7. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6, wherein R<sup>2</sup> is at the following position:



8. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7, wherein  $R^2$  is  $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy.
9. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8, wherein A is at the following position:

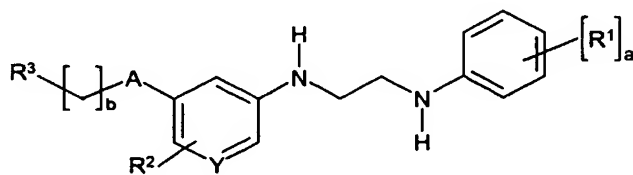


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10. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 9, wherein A is oxygen.
11. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 10, wherein b is 2.
12. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 11, wherein  $R^3$  is N-linked heterocycle or di- $C_{1-6}$ alkylamine.
- 10 13. A compound as claimed in claim 1, which is:
- 1-(3-Fluoro-phenyl)-3-[4-methoxy-3-(2-piperidin-1-yl-ethoxy)-phenyl]-imidazolidin-2-one;
- 1-(3-Fluoro-phenyl)-3-[4-methoxy-3-(2-morpholin-4-yl-ethoxy)-phenyl]-imidazolidin-2-one;
- 1-(4-Methyl-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-3-[4-methoxy-3-(2-piperidin-1-yl-ethoxy)-phenyl]-imidazolidin-2-one;
- 15 1-(4-Methyl-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-3-[4-methoxy-3-(2-morpholin-4-yl-ethoxy)-phenyl]-imidazolidin-2-one;
- 1-(2-Chloro-phenyl)-3-[4-methoxy-3-(2-piperidin-1-yl-ethoxy)-phenyl]-imidazolidin-2-one
- 1-[4-Methoxy-3-(2-piperidin-1-yl-ethoxy)-phenyl]-3-phenyl-imidazolidin-2-one;
- 1-[3-(2-Dimethylamino-ethoxy)-4-methoxy-phenyl]-3-(3-fluorophenyl)-imidazolidin-2-one;
- 20 1-(3-Fluoro-phenyl)-3-{4-methoxy-3[(1S,4S)-2-(2-oxa-5-aza-bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-imidazolidin-2-one;
- 1-(3,4-Dichloro-phenyl)-3-[4-methoxy-3-(2-piperidin-1-yl-ethoxy)-phenyl]-imidazolidin-2-one;
- 1-(3,4-Dichloro-phenyl)-3-[4-methoxy-3-(2-morpholin-4-yl-ethoxy)-phenyl]-imidazolidin-2-
- 25 one;
- 1-(3,4-Dichloro-phenyl)-3-[3-(2-dimethylamino-ethoxy)-4-methoxy-phenyl]-imidazolidin-2-one;
- 1-(3,4-Dichloro-phenyl)-3-[6-(2-piperidin-1-yl-ethoxy)-pyridin-3-yl]-imidazolidin-2-one;
- 1-[4-Bromo-3-(2-piperidin-1-yl-ethoxy)-phenyl]-3-(3,4-dichloro-phenyl)-imidazolidin-2-one;
- 30 1-(2,3-Dichloro-phenyl)-3-[4-methoxy-3-(2-piperidin-1-yl-ethoxy)-phenyl]-imidazolidin-2-one;
- 1-(3-Fluoro-phenyl)-3-[4-methoxy-3-(2-piperidin-1-yl-ethoxy)-phenyl]-1,3-dihydro-imidazol-2-one;
- 1-(3-Fluoro-phenyl)-3-[4-methoxy-3-(2-piperidin-1-yl-ethoxy)-phenyl]-1,3-dihydro-
- 35 imidazol-2-one;
- 1-(3-Fluoro-phenyl)-3-[4-methoxy-3-(2-piperidin-1-yl-ethoxy)-phenyl]-imidazol-2-one;
- 3-(3-Fluoro-phenyl)-1-[4-methoxy-3-(2-piperidin-1-yl-ethoxy)-phenyl]-imidazol-2,4-dione;

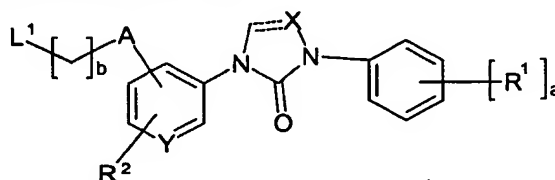
5-[3-(3,4-Dichloro-phenyl)-2-oxo-imidazolidin-1-yl]-3-(2-piperidin-1-yl-ethyl)-3H-benzoxazol-2-one,  
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

14. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which process comprises:  
a) the cyclisation of a compound of formula (II)



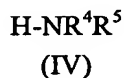
(II)

in which R¹, R², R³, A, Y, a and b are defined in formula (I); or  
b) the coupling of a compound of formula (III):



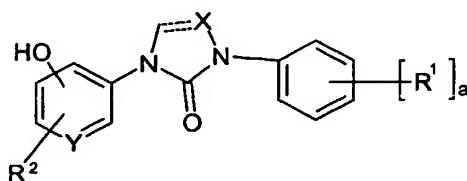
(III)

in which R¹, R², A, X, Y, a and b are defined in formula (I) and L¹ is a leaving group, with a  
compound of formula (IV):



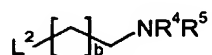
(IV)

in which R⁴ and R⁵ are defined in formula (I); or  
c) the coupling of a compound of formula (V)



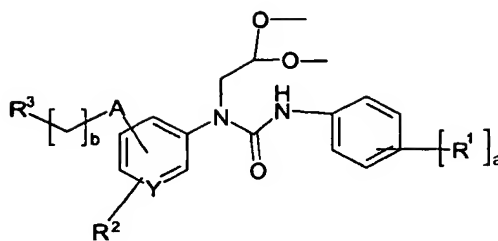
(V)

in which R¹, R², X, Y and a are defined in formula (I), with a compound of formula (VI):



(VI)

- in which R⁴, R⁵ and b are defined in formula (I) and L² is a leaving group or hydroxy; or  
d) the cyclisation of a compound of formula (VII):



(VII)

in which  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ , Y, A, a and b are defined in formula (I);

optionally followed by:

- 5     • removing any protecting groups; and/or
- converting a compound of formula (I) so formed into another compound of formula (I); and/or
- forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.
- 15    15.     A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as defined in any of claims 1-
- 10    13 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.
16.     A process for preparing a pharmaceutical composition as defined in claim 15, the
- process comprising mixing a compound as defined in any of claims 1-13 and a
- pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.
17.     A compound as claimed in any of claims 1-13 or a composition as claimed in claim
- 15    15 for use as a therapeutic substance.
18.     A compound or a composition as defined in claim 17 for use in the treatment of a
- CNS disorder.
19.     A compound or a composition as defined in claim 17 wherein the CNS disorder is
- depression and/or anxiety.
- 20    20.     A method of treatment of a CNS disorder in mammals, comprising administering to
- the sufferer a therapeutically safe and effective amount of a compound as defined in any of
- claims 1-13 or a composition as defined in claim 15.
21.     A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the CNS disorder is depression and/or
- anxiety.
- 25    22.     Use of a compound as defined in any of claims 1-13 or a composition as defined in
- claim 15 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of a CNS disorder.
23.     Use as claimed in claim 22, wherein the CNS disorder is depression and/or anxiety.